measures as are necessary for the prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

* sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women
* vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence
* set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations
* provide institutional support to the victims of violence
* provide counseling to victims of rape
* take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters
* ensure wider recruitment of women police officers
* train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women
* setting up of Fast Track Courts
* setting up of Family Courts
* appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

Process of child adoption

450. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that child adoption in the country is fraught with unnecessarily lengthy and complicated legal process deterring the potential adopters;

(b) whether Government would enact a uniform law that govern the process of child adoption in the country covering all citizens irrespective of faith they subscribe to; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The procedures governing in-country adoption and inter-country adoption have been provided under "Guidelines for In-country Adoption 2004 and Guidelines Adoption from India 2006" respectively. These guidelines replaced the earlier guidelines in order to bring more simplicity and transparency in adoption procedures. However, these guidelines are subject to regular review in order to make them more efficient and child friendly. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 along with Model Rules, 2007 under this Act, also seeks to provide a child friendly and simple adoption framework. Further, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 provides no restriction to adoption on account of sex, religion of the child or prospective parents.

Retention of orphans in care homes and orphanages

451. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that care homes and orphanages keep children upto the age of 18 years only and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that by the time the orphan boys and girls reach the age of 18, they do not complete education enough to enable them get employment and for factors such as ban on under-aged employment, etc.; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to provide for retention of orphans for some more years and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, a child is defined as a person who has not completed 18 years of age. Accordingly, the children homes which are established and maintained by the State Governments/UT Administrations under this Act, either by themselves, or in association with the voluntary organizations, for children in need of care and protection keep these children upto the age of 18 years.

(b) Children Homes are supposed to be functioning as comprehensive child care centres and are expected to provide facilities which include education to all children according to their age and ability, either inside the home or outside. The children homes are also required to facilitate vocational training to children under the guidance of trained instructors.

The ban on employment under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 as well as the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment is with the intention of providing better scope for education to these children. There may, however, be children who have not completed education by the age of 18 years.

(c) Section 44 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for establishment or recognition of After Care Organizations for children between the age of 17 to 18 years who may stay in these organizations till the age of 20 years. These organizations are expected to enable the children to prepare themselves for an honest, industrious and useful life after they leave children homes. Government of India has been impressing upon the State Governments for full implementation of the provision of the Act.

Anganwadi Centres

†452. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Anganwadi Centres in the entire country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Madhya Pradesh requires more than one lakh Anganwadi Centres; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Government to run so many Anganwadi Centres, as are required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There are 1052638 Anganwadi Centres sanctioned by Government of India in the country. Of these, 970508 Anganwadi Centres became operational as on 30.11.2007.

(b) and (c) In Madhya Pradesh, 69238 Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned by

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.